

From: Jim Kaufman
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsfot Settlement

My current understanding of the proposed settlement is that it doesn't go far enough. Microsoft has done more than be a successful company.

They have crushed competitors using secret clauses in contracts with their OEMs. For example, they forbid system manufacturers from providing alternative operating systems.

They adopt open standards that are essential for wide use of the Internet, and then they co-opt them, changing them so they are no longer standards, but are Microsoft-specific.

They include an Internet browser that uses proprietary extensions. What user is really going to spend the time to download an alternative browser that is 15MB in size to replace a functioning Internet Explorer? The problem is that those of use who use alternate browsers find that we are getting locked out of more and more Internet sites because the site developers chose to use a Microsoft enhancement, ie a non-standard function.

The settlement as currently conceived is a bad idea.

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